

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified polypeptide which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - (b) ~~a variant of (a)~~ an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity ~~thereto~~ to SEQ ID NO:2 and which specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 2~~ SEQ ID NO:2, or
 - (c) ~~a fragment of (a) or (b)~~ an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is ~~of~~ at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment ~~which~~ specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 2~~ SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (currently amended) A ~~vaccine~~ composition which invokes an immune response to a Streptococcus, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an immunogenically effective amount of an isolated and purified polypeptide which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - (b) ~~a variant of (a)~~ an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity ~~thereto~~ to SEQ ID NO:2 and which generates an immune response to a Streptococcus, or

(c) ~~a fragment of (a) or (b)~~ an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is of at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment which generates an immune response against a Streptococcus.

3. (currently amended) A ~~vaccine~~ composition according to claim 2, wherein the Streptococcus is a group A Streptococcus.

Claims 4 to 9 (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) A method of ~~vaccinating a patient against a Streptococcal infection, which method comprises~~ invoking an immune response in a host to a Streptococcus, comprising administering to the patient host an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in claim 1 an isolated and purified polypeptide which comprises:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- (b) an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2 and which specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or
- (c) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 11 and 12 (cancelled).

13. (new) An isolated and purified polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

14. (new) An isolated and purified polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2 and which specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

15. (new) An isolated and purified polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

16. (new) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

17. (new) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2 and which specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (new) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the polypeptide comprises an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (new) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (new) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2 and which specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (new) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polypeptide comprises an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is at least 60 amino acids in length, the at least 60 amino acids are contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, and the fragment specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (new) A method according to claim 10, wherein the Streptococcus is a group A Streptococcus.